

What is claimed is:

1. A communication apparatus having a plurality of input and output ports for handling a fixed-length packet,

5 wherein for each of a first and a second connections identified by an identifier of said fixed-length packet from said input port, a time interval, during which said fixed-length packet is output, is controlled so that the time interval becomes equal to or longer than a given  
10 interval.

2. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein during the time when a fixed-length packet having a first value as an identifier of said first connection is required to be transmitted to said output port, a fixed-  
15 length packet having a second value as an identifier of said first connection can be transmitted to an output port according to predetermined rules.

3. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein during the time when a fixed-length packet having  
20 a first value as an identifier of said second connection is required to be transmitted to said output port, a fixed-length packet having a second value as an identifier of said second connection can be transmitted to an output port according to predetermined rules.

25 4. A communication apparatus having a plurality of

input and output ports for handling a fixed-length packet,  
said communication apparatus comprising:

a first means for accumulating said fixed-length  
packet from said input port;

5 a second means for identifying a first and a second  
connections by an identifier of said fixed-length packet  
from said input port; and

a third means for controlling a time interval,  
during which said fixed-length packet accumulated in said  
10 first means is read, so that the time interval becomes  
equal to or longer than a given interval, for each of said  
first connection and said second connection.

5. A communication apparatus according to Claim 4,  
wherein said third means controls a time interval, during  
15 which said fixed-length packet accumulated in said first  
means is read, using a transmission interval and a delay  
variation value that have been predefined for said fixed-  
length packet.

6. A communication apparatus according to Claim 4,  
20 wherein said third means controls a time interval so that,  
during the time when a fixed-length packet having a first  
value as an identifier of said first connection is  
required to be transmitted to said output port, a fixed-  
length packet having a second value as an identifier of  
25 said first connection can be transmitted to an output port

according to predetermined rules.

7. A communication apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said third means controls a time interval so that, during the time when a fixed-length packet having a first value as an identifier of said second connection is required to be transmitted to said output port, a fixed-length packet having a second value as an identifier of said second connection can be transmitted to an output port according to predetermined rules.

8. A communication apparatus having a plurality of input and output ports for handling a fixed-length packet, comprising:

a controller for determining transmission scheduled time of each of said fixed-length packets according to predetermined rules for a connection identified by an identifier of the fixed-length packet from said input port.

9. A communication apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said controller determines said transmission scheduled time, using a transmission interval and a delay variation value that have been predefined for said fixed-length packet.

10. A communication apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said controller selects a first connection when the transmission scheduled time has come; and said controller selects a second connection if there is no

fixed-length packet to be transmitted for said first connection.

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